



Councilmembers Reagan Dunn, Dave Upthegrove, Rod Dembowski, Kathy Lambert, **Council Chair Larry Phillips**, Pete von Reichbauer, Larry Gossett, **Council Vice Chair Jane Hague**, and **Council Vice Chair Joe McDermott**.

As your Metropolitan King County Council, we oversee the second largest government and the most populous county in Washington State. With two million residents, King County is the 14th largest county in the United States in terms of population. Coincidentally, there are more people living in King County than in 14 states! At 2,134 square miles, the county covers more territory than the states of Rhode Island or Delaware.

Our dedicated employees provide quality regional services every day to county residents. We are also the local government for approximately 253,000 people who live in our urban and rural unincorporated areas, and we provide services by contract to many of the county's 39 cities.

As the legislative branch of county government, the Council sets policies, enacts laws, and adopts budgets that guide an array of services for this region, including:

- the criminal justice system of prosecutors and public defenders, District and Superior Courts, juvenile detention and adult jails;
- the King County Sheriff's Office, which directly serves residents of unincorporated areas and contracts with many cities to provide police protection;

- public health and human services;
- Metro Transit bus service and county roads;
- wastewater treatment and solid waste management;
- regional parks, open space, and trails; and
- elections, records, and licensing.

Each of the nine members of the King County Council represents a geographical district of about 217,000 residents. Councilmembers are elected on a non-partisan basis and serve four-year terms.

The Council has four standing committees that oversee specific government functions of county government and a Committee of the Whole that includes all Councilmembers. Councilmembers also work closely with elected officials from local jurisdictions on three regional committees that address common interests in matters of policy, transit, and water quality.

The Council's review of ordinances, motions, and budgets help ensure that county government operates in an efficient, transparent, and cost-effective manner, with equal access for all county residents.

Get agendas, minutes, and meeting videos online at:  
[www.kingcounty.gov/council](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council)

# Message from the Council Chair



Larry Phillips, Chair

Named after of our nation's greatest civil rights leader, King County remains one of the best places in the United States to live, work, and play. The mountains, waters, forests, and businesses that make this region great also place upon us a responsibility to take care of our environment and plan effectively for coming generations.

Our growing population means that we need to invest in our infrastructure and take bold steps to protect the quality of our air, water, and land, in the face of demands on our natural resources and climate change.

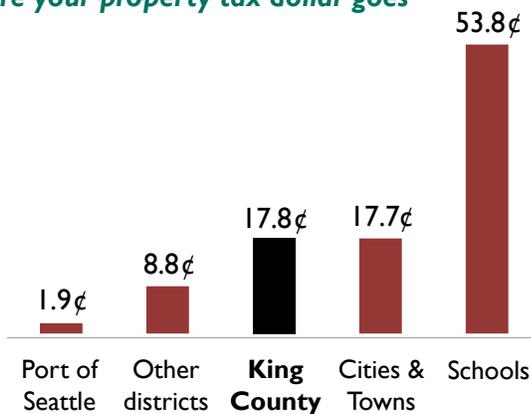
Our current county population of two million people speak over 120 languages and represent many heritages and backgrounds. As our population becomes increasingly diverse, it is also important to provide equal opportunity for all residents.

These are among the significant responsibilities and challenges facing our county government, overseen by the King County Council. I am honored to have been chosen to chair the Council this year by my colleagues.

As a Council, we continue to address growing demand for county services, such as public safety, transportation, and health and human services, while revenues decline. Our success is dependent on the participation of our constituents to advocate for the services our public needs and the means to support them.

## Understanding the county budget

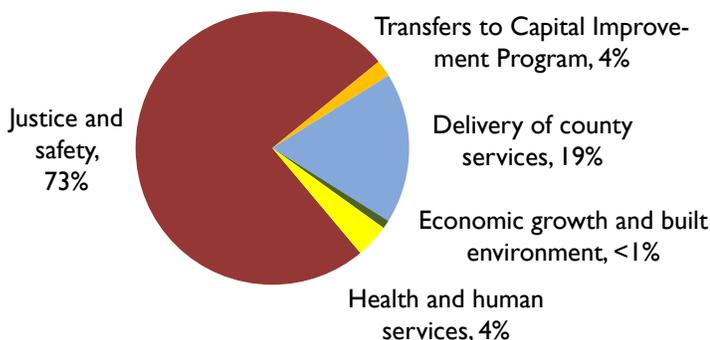
### Where your property tax dollar goes



The county budget is composed of two types of funds: dedicated funds and the General Fund. Dedicated funds are the largest portion at 84% of the total budget. By law, these funds are restricted to specific purposes, such as transit, sewage treatment, and voter-approved programs like the regional Medic One system.

The discretionary portion of the county budget is the General Fund, which amounts to 16% of the total budget. These funds pay for critical day-to-day services not supported by other revenues. Almost three quarters of the General Fund (73%) goes to pay for criminal justice and public safety, as mandated by the State. The remainder must fund other services, such as Elections and human services (see pie chart).

### General fund expenditures

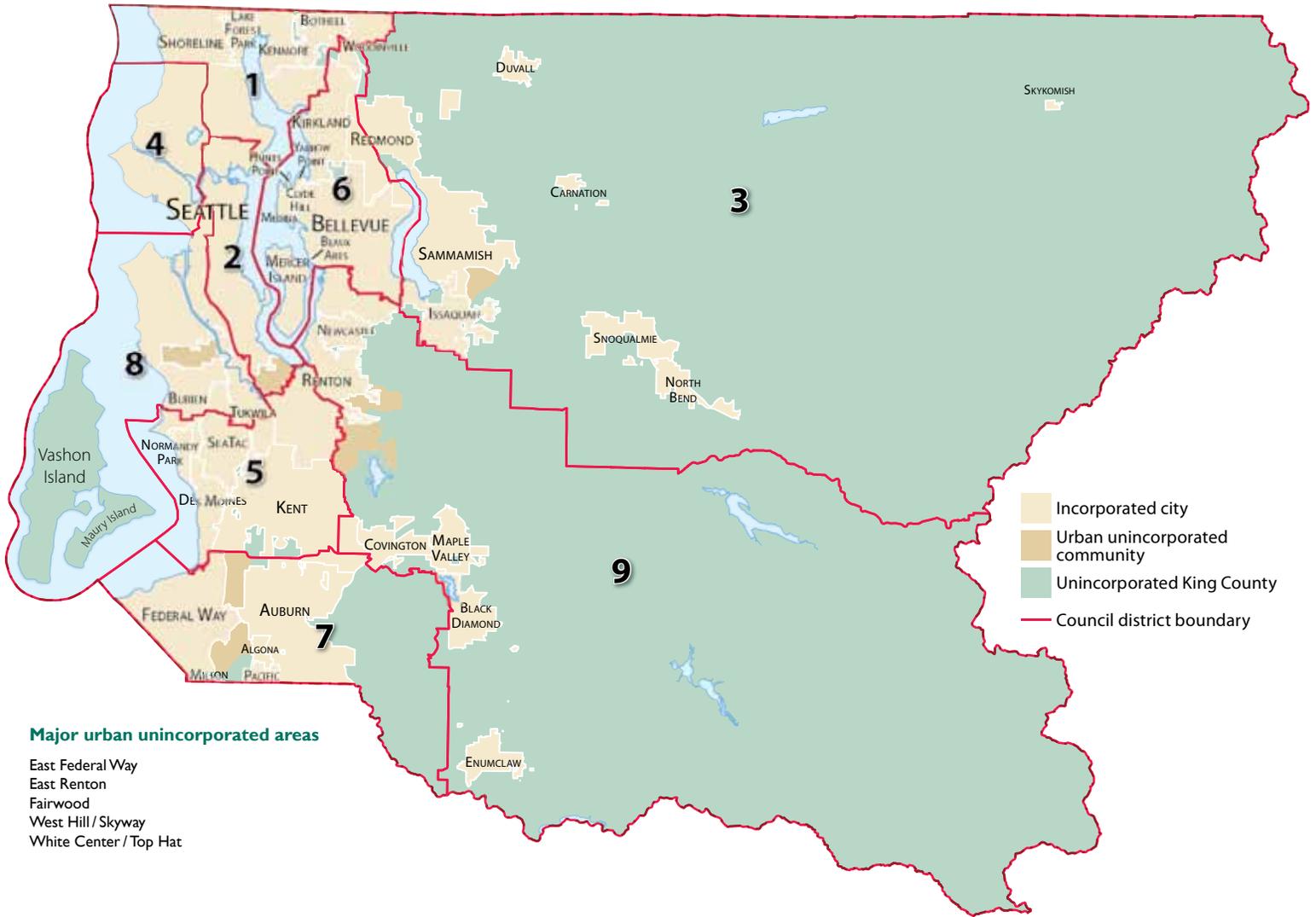


The General Fund is supported mostly by property tax, sales tax, and fees. By law, the County collects property tax on behalf of all taxing districts within the county. However, the County receives only 18 cents of every property tax dollar, with the rest going to other agencies (see bar graph). Similarly, King County receives less than one cent of the 9.5 cents sales tax per dollar collected in most of the county.

Since Washington State enacted the one percent cap on property tax increases in 2002, counties across our state have faced a gap between revenue and the cost of providing services. This structural gap has resulted in the General Fund being cut by \$384 million during the past decade. The projected deficit for the 2015-16 biennium will be at least \$36 million.

For more information, please visit [www.kingcounty.gov/council/budget](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/budget)

# King County's urban and rural landscape



## Contact information

The King County Council meets Mondays at 1:30 p.m. on the 10th floor of the King County Courthouse. You can watch all meetings held in the chambers live on King County TV, cable channel 22, and online at our website. Agendas, minutes, and archived video of past meetings are also available online at [www.kingcounty.gov/council](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council).

### Mailing address

Metropolitan King County Council  
King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue, 12th Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104-3272

### Telephone

(206) 477-1000, Toll-free: (800) 325-6165  
Fax: (206) 296-0198  
TTY/TDD: (206) 296-1024

### Online

Web: [www.kingcounty.gov/council](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/KingCountyCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/KingCountyCouncil)  
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/KCCouncil>

### Clerk of the Council

E-mail: [clerk.council@kingcounty.gov](mailto:clerk.council@kingcounty.gov)  
Telephone: (206) 477-1020

### Which Council district do I live in?

Enter your address at [www.kingcounty.gov/council/councilmembers](http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/councilmembers)

Dist.	Councilmember	Phone	E-mail
1	Rod Dembowski	477-1001	<a href="mailto:rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov">rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov</a>
2	Larry Gossett	477-1002	<a href="mailto:larry.gossett@kingcounty.gov">larry.gossett@kingcounty.gov</a>
3	Kathy Lambert	477-1003	<a href="mailto:kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov">kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov</a>
4	Larry Phillips	477-1004	<a href="mailto:larry.phillips@kingcounty.gov">larry.phillips@kingcounty.gov</a>
5	Dave Upthegrove	477-1005	<a href="mailto:dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov">dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov</a>
6	Jane Hague	477-1006	<a href="mailto:jane.hague@kingcounty.gov">jane.hague@kingcounty.gov</a>
7	Peter von Reichbauer	477-1007	<a href="mailto:pete.vonreichbauer@kingcounty.gov">pete.vonreichbauer@kingcounty.gov</a>
8	Joe McDermott	477-1008	<a href="mailto:joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov">joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov</a>
9	Reagan Dunn	477-1009	<a href="mailto:reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov">reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov</a>

# Committees and special governments

The King County Council reviews proposed legislation through a number of standing committees that oversee specific government functions. Councilmembers work closely with elected officials from local jurisdictions on regional committees that address common interests in policy, transit, and water quality. In addition, Councilmembers serve as the Board of Supervisors of three special-purpose governments, created under authority provided by the State Legislature.

## Council committees

### Committee of the Whole

Legislation and policy issues of interest to the entire Council.

**Chair:** Jane Hague

**Vice Chair:** Joe McDermott

**Members:** All Councilmembers

### Budget and Fiscal Management

Capital and operating appropriations. Oversight of annual county budget, including current revenue and expenses.

*First and third Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.*

**Chair:** Joe McDermott

**Vice Chair:** Kathy Lambert

**Members:** Jane Hague, Rod Dembowski, Dave Upthegrove

### Government Accountability and Oversight

Accountability and oversight for efficiency, cost effectiveness, and performance improvement of county departments and programs.

*Second and fourth Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.*

**Chair:** Pete von Reichbauer

**Vice Chair:** Dave Upthegrove

**Members:** Rod Dembowski, Reagan Dunn

### Law, Justice, Health and Human Services

Justice, public safety and health, human services, housing, and emergency management.

*Second, fourth, and fifth Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.*

**Chair:** Kathy Lambert

**Vice Chair:** Rod Dembowski

**Members:** Larry Gossett, Joe McDermott

### Transportation, Economy and Environment

Growth management, economic development, environmental issues, wastewater and solid waste, parks, public transportation, and county road system.

*First, third, and fifth Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.*

**Chair:** Rod Dembowski

**Vice Chair:** Jane Hague

**Members:** Kathy Lambert, Joe McDermott, Larry Phillips, Pete von Reichbauer, Dave Upthegrove

## Regional committees

### Regional Policy

Countywide plans and policies on issues such as human services, solid waste, disaster planning, and criminal justice.

*Second Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.*

**Chair:** Pete von Reichbauer

**Vice Chair:** Federal Way City Councilmember Dini Duclos

**Members:** Larry Gossett, Kathy Lambert

**Sound Cities Association Members:** Bellevue City Councilmember John Stokes, Woodinville Mayor Bernie Talmas, Kirkland Mayor Amy Walen

**City of Seattle Members:** Councilmember Sally Clark, Councilmember Kshama Sawant

### Regional Transit

Countywide plans and policies pertaining to King County Metro Transit services and facilities.

*Third Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.*

**Chair:** Reagan Dunn

**Vice Chair:** Redmond City Councilmember Kimberly Allen

**Members:** Jane Hague, Joe McDermott

**Sound Cities Association Members:** Mercer Island Mayor Bruce Bassett, Kent City Councilmember Dennis Higgins, Algona Mayor Dave Hill, Auburn City Councilmember Wayne Osborne, Renton City Councilmember Marcie Palmer, Sammamish Mayor Tom Vance, Lake Forest Park City Councilmember John Wright

**City of Seattle Members:** Councilmember Mike O'Brien, Councilmember Tom Rasmussen

### Regional Water Quality

Plans and policies for construction, operation, and financing of wastewater treatment facilities; other water quality concerns.

*First Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.*

**Chair:** Dave Upthegrove

**Vice Chair:** Lake Forest Park City Councilmember John Wright

**Members:** Jane Hague, Larry Phillips

**Sound Cities Association Members:** Kent City Councilmember Bill Boyce, Shoreline City Councilmember Doris McConnell, Auburn City Councilmember Wayne Osborne

**Sewer District Members:** Cedar River Water/Sewer District Commissioner Walter Canter, Southwest Suburban Sewer District Commissioner William Tracy

**City of Seattle Members:** Councilmember Jean Godden, Councilmember Kshama Sawant

## Special-purpose governments

### King County Ferry District

*Fourth Monday of April, July, and October at 1:30 p.m.*

[www.kingcountyferries.org](http://www.kingcountyferries.org)

### King County Flood Control District

*Second Monday of April, July, and October at 1:30 p.m.*

[www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org](http://www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org)

### King County Transportation District

[www.kingcountytransportationdistrict.org](http://www.kingcountytransportationdistrict.org)